

REMARKS

In the March 9, 2007 Office Action restriction was required between the following inventions:

Group I:	Claims 1-12 and 18;
Group II:	Claim 13;
Group III:	Claim 14;
Group IV:	Claim 15;
Group V:	Claim 16; and
Group VI:	Claim 17.

Applicants hereby elect Group I for further prosecution, with claims 1-12 and 18 readable thereon. Applicants make this election with traverse.

As set forth in the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP) §803, there are two criteria for a proper requirement for restriction between patentably distinct inventions: (1) the inventions must be independent or distinct as claimed; and (2) there must be a serious burden on the Examiner if restriction is not required. MPEP §808.02 provides that there are three ways in which an Examiner can establish that a serious burden exists. First, the Examiner can show that each invention has attained recognition in the art as a separate subject for inventive effort and also a separate field of search. Patents need not be cited to show separate classification. Next, even if they are classified together, each invention can be shown to have formed a separate subject for inventive effort when the Examiner can show a recognition of separate inventive effort by inventors. Finally, where it is necessary to search for one of the inventions in a manner that is not likely to result in finding art pertinent to the other inventions (e.g., searching different classes/subclasses or electronic resources or employing different search queries), a different field of search is shown, even though the two are classified together.

In the present situation, no serious burden exists in maintaining all of the pending claims in this application. Method claims 14 and 16 include the same process steps as recited in independent claim 1. Accordingly, a search of claims 14 and 16 is not unduly burdensome on the Examiner once the search is completed on claim 1. Furthermore, the product claims 13, 15 and 17 correspond to the limitations set forth in claims 1, 14 and 16, respectively. Likewise, a

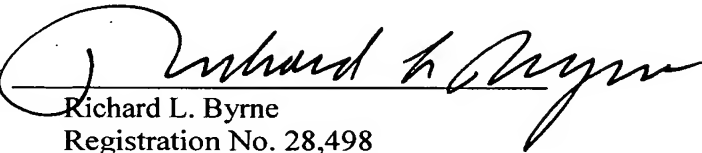
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search of claims 13, 15 and 17 is not unduly burdensome in view of the search the Examiner will make of independent claim 1.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the Election/Restriction requirement and examination of claims 1-17 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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